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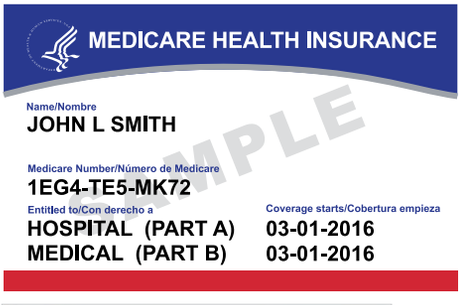

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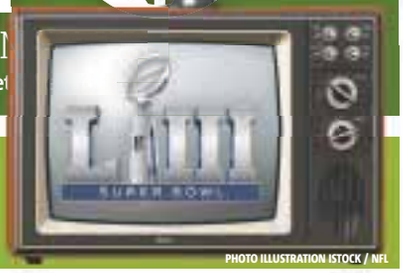

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ISTOCK / NFL

SUPER SURPRISES

What to expect from this year's commercials. 15

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Could Knicks, Nets get in on Anthony Davis sweepstakes? 19

Polar vortex to freeze NYC, Northeast. 3

RUNNING MAN

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson announced Monday that he's begun accepting contributions for a 2021 run for mayor. 6

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Jamming with Dawes' Taylor Goldsmith. 16

5 THINGS TO KNOW

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WILL DRICKEY, DIGITAL REPORTER

If he wins, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson will be New York City's first openly gay (and openly HIV-positive) mayor. If the public advocate race is any indication, the mayor's race will become a crowded field, and Johnson may need any head start he can find if he wants to stand out. The fact that he hasn't actually articulated any policy positions certainly isn't helping, but refusing to take donations from lobbyists, real estate developers and corporate PACs is a promising start.

1 Five police officers shot in Houston, suspect down

Five Houston police officers were shot on Monday as they attempted to serve a warrant, according to officials and local media. Their conditions were not immediately disclosed. The site of the shooting was still an active crime scene, Houston police said in a message on Twitter, warning people to avoid the area. A suspect in the shooting was down, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said in a message on Twitter. The policemen were shot as officers from the Houston narcotics division served a warrant, the Houston Chronicle reported, citing an unnamed law enforcement source. One of the officers was airlifted to a hospital, Houston Police Officers' Union president Joe Gamaldi said in a separate tweet. Four officers who were shot were also hospitalized, Houston police said in a message on Twitter.

2 Trump, Pelosi agree on State of Union Feb. 5 date

President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have agreed Trump will give the annual State of the Union address on Feb. 5, following her postponement of the event from Jan. 29 because of the partial government shutdown, a spokesman for Pelosi said on Monday. In a letter to Trump posted by spokesman Drew Hammill on Twitter, Pelosi invited Trump to give the speech in the U.S. House of Representatives. Democrat Pelosi had spoken with the Republican president and they had agreed on the date for the nationally televised address, the spokesman said. The annual speech is given by the president to outline the administration's priorities for the coming year. The partial government shutdown ended on Friday after 35 days, paving the way for the speech to go ahead. The White House had considered alternative venues than the House.

GETTY IMAGES

3 Facebook announces plans to integrate WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger

The logos of messaging applications WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger are displayed on the screen of an Apple iPhone on Monday in Paris. The big new project of Mark Zuckerberg, founder of social network Facebook, is to unify all its messaging applications, according to The New York Times. So all the applications of Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp could work together, the exchanged messages would be encrypted as they are currently on WhatsApp. "We are working to ensure that more of our messaging is encrypted end-to-end and we are thinking of ways to make it easier to communicate with family and friends via all networks," said a Facebook spokesman, confirming news reports from The New York Times. Facebook's three messaging services each claim more than one billion users worldwide.

4 Woman rescued after stuck in UES elevator all weekend

An employee of a New York billionaire's family spent the weekend stuck in the elevator of the family's Manhattan townhouse before she was rescued on Monday, officials said. The homeowners spent the weekend away and discovered the woman was trapped when they arrived back home on Monday, according to The New York Times. The townhouse is owned by Warren Stephens, the head of the Little Rock, Arkansas-based financial firm Stephens Inc., who according to Forbes is worth an estimated $2.6 billion. Firefighters who rescued the woman, stuck between the 2nd and 3rd floors, learned from people at the scene that she had been stuck in the elevator since Friday, Chris Berke, a spokesman for the New York City Fire Department, said by phone. He did not release the woman's name.

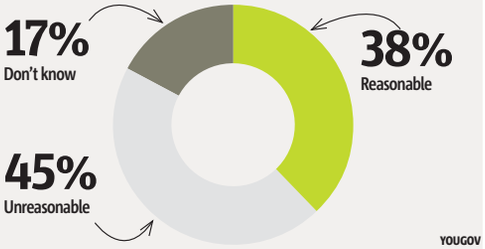
5 Mueller probe 'close to being completed': AG

The probe of possible Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election, led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, is wrapping up, Acting U.S. Attorney General Matthew Whitaker told reporters on Monday. "I've been fully briefed on the investigation and I look forward to Director Mueller delivering the final report," he said at a press conference on U.S. charges against China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd. The investigation most recently ensnared a longtime confidant of President Donald Trump, political operative Roger Stone, and has led to the conviction of Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort. Mueller has been tight-lipped about when the months of closed-door grand jury sessions and plea deals will conclude, leaving questions over how far into the White House his probe will reach and what will happen to his findings.

STATS

Duke professor resigns

A Duke University professor emailed students in her department asking them to "commit to using English 100% of the time" while in department buildings, including when they are socializing outside of class but are still in the building. Do you think this request was reasonable or unreasonable?



YOUGOV

Last year's brutal cold left a Bryant Park fountain frozen. XINHUA NEWS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

Polar vortex to freeze Upper Midwest and Northeast

"Dangerous, life-threatening cold air" to descend upon the Mid-Atlantic region: NWS

The U.S. Midwest and Northeast were braced for dangerous subzero temperatures this week, as the polar vortex was set to blast arctic conditions unusually far south, the National Weather Service said on Monday.

The system was set to extend from the Dakotas through New England, with Chicago expecting temperatures to plunge as low as minus-25 degrees Fahrenheit overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, the weather service said.

The polar vortex — the frigid winds that circulate around the North Pole — is extending further south into the Upper Midwest, said weather service meteorologist Brian Hurley.

"If you live up in the Arctic Circle, you'd say this is pretty normal. When it's actually brought down to this level, that's when you know it's something serious."

Brian Hurley, NWS meteorologist

"If you live up in the Arctic Circle, you'd say this is pretty normal. When it's actually brought down to this level, that's when you know it's something serious," Hurley said in a telephone interview.

Blizzard conditions are predicted across parts of the western Ohio Valley and snow is expected Tuesday through Wednesday from the Great Lakes region into New England, the weather service said.

Snowfall will occur in the Dakotas, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; and in Central Michigan, where a foot or more of snow is expected, the weather service said. Upstate New York, Vermont and New Hampshire will see less than a foot of snow, and Boston will get less than an inch.

Chicago will take the main brunt of the supercold weather, with widespread heavy snow already affecting the area on Monday, the weather service said on Twitter. Wind chills as low as minus-50 were also expected by Tuesday evening through Thursday morning.

The service's Des Moines, Iowa, branch said "dangerous, life-threatening cold air" will hit the Midwestern state from Tuesday morning through Friday morning, with wind chill values on Wednesday likely to range from minus-45 to minus-55 across the northern part of the state.

More than 600 flights into or out of Chicago O'Hare International Airport were canceled Monday morning and nearly 300 flights were delayed, according to FlightAware.com. More than 200 flights at Chicago's Midway International Airport were canceled, but only about seven flights were delayed.

Delta Air Lines Inc. said it would waive flight change fees for passengers affected by the winter weather in Chicago, Detroit and areas of the Upper Midwest. REUTERS

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NYC HOPE survey counts the city's homeless. GETTY IMAGES

Cold temps could be an issue for homeless survey

Advocates say the city's HOPE survey could undercount homeless population.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

More than 4,200 New Yorkers participated in the city's annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate survey Monday night, but the chilly temperatures may have posed accuracy issues.

Called the HOPE survey, the city's annual census aims to get an estimate of the number of unsheltered homeless individuals on New York City streets, in parks, subways and other public spaces. The HOPE survey is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and conducted by the NYC Department of Homeless Services.

Homeless advocates have been concerned about the count's accuracy for years, and this issue is only exacerbated by extreme cold, such as last night's freezing temps.

"We've had similar concerns over many years about whether this number accurately reflects the need or the severity of the issue in New York City," said Giselle Routhier, policy director for Coalition for the Homeless, which is not involved in the survey.

"There are a lot of different reasons why that's the case," she added. "[One is that] every year they do this estimate the conditions are different, so comparability year by year is very challenging, particularly with respect to weather."

This year was set to have been a colder night than the last two HOPE surveys. According to the Department of Homeless Services, it was 37 degrees during last year's survey and 40 degrees for the 2017 count. 2014 saw one of the coldest nights for the HOPE survey, when it was 18 degrees.

"Advocates across the city agree that the HOPE count is likely an undercount regardless of the weather, given the safety necessity and related ability of homeless New Yorkers to make themselves blend in and not readily apparent on the streets," said Áine Duggan, president of Partnership for the Homeless, which provides services for New York City's homeless population and is also not a part of the annual count.

"On a cold night, that problem is obviously exacerbated," she added, "because they will try to find temporary shelter with a friend or a neighbor, but it doesn't change the fact that they are homeless."

Homeless individuals could also take refuge from the cold in a vestibule or somewhere like a laundromat, said Routhier, which would not be counted during the HOPE census as a public space.

The HOPE survey specifically looks at unsheltered homeless individuals in the city, which is only a fraction of the population. Only 5 percent of New York City's homeless population is unsheltered, according to a HUD report from December 2018.

Still, it's important to understand the overall homeless crisis in the five boroughs, said Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. Sullivan will participate in the survey, along with more than 30 volunteers through the Catholic Charities.

"We work with people who are on the street and we have some very temporary shelters that we work with and we have affordable housing. We can tell you that affordable housing — that should be the permanent goal for every New Yorker," he said. "It's better that there are more people in shelters than on the street, but it's much, much better when people have a permanent apartment to live in."

Homeless advocates echoed this, saying that though the count may be inaccurate, it still shows a general trend that the homeless population is increasing. That needs to be addressed, Duggan said, through prevention and the creation of new housing units to help people leave the shelter system.

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Johnson claims his campaign will cap individual donations at $250. GETTY IMAGES

Corey Johnson announces he's running for mayor

The City Council speaker has started his candidacy more than two years ahead of the election.

WILL DRICKEY
will.drickey@metro.us

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio will reach the end of his term in 2021 and due to term-limit laws, he'll be unable to run again; however, that's not stopping City Council Speaker Corey Johnson from announcing his intentions to throw his hat into the ring two years ahead of the election.

"I don't want to be public advocate. I don't want to be comptroller. And this is potentially about a run for mayor," Johnson told The New York Times. "You have to be prepared and that's why I'm preparing."

New York's City Charter now caps individual donations at $2,000, down from $5,100, but will match contributions of $250 or less at an 8-to-1 rate from a public fund. Johnson has gone a step further, promising to refuse any donations higher than $250, and will also not take money from any corporate PACs, lobbyists or real estate developers.

"I think this is the future of the Democratic Party," Johnson said. "I think a lot of anxiety in New York City is about gentrification and overdevelopment, and people don't like any appearance of influence based off of contributions."

"I don't want to be public advocate. I don't want to be comptroller. And this is potentially about a run for mayor. You have to be prepared and that's why I'm preparing."
Corey Johnson, City Council speaker

However, between 2008 and 2010, Johnson worked as the director of government and community affairs for GFI Development Company, exactly the sort of position he has now disowned.

"I live in a 319-square-foot apartment!" he told New York Magazine about his former career. "If I am a real-estate developer I am the least successful, poorest real-estate developer in New York."

Johnson has discussed running for mayor since April of last year, though he told The New York Times in January of 2018, "I never want to be mayor. No."

Johnson has discussed his campaign messaging before, and has stated that he does not agree with de Blasio's comments that the most money in New York is in the wrong hands, but would rather focus on "a middle-class message that is about fairness."

"I think the message is: Give People a Godd—Break," he told New York Magazine in April. "Provide basic things — safety, sanitation, reliable subway service, and work on the affordability crisis that has gripped our city."

Johnson has already launched his campaign site, which includes links to join his email list and to donate to his campaign, but no stances on policy issues as of yet.

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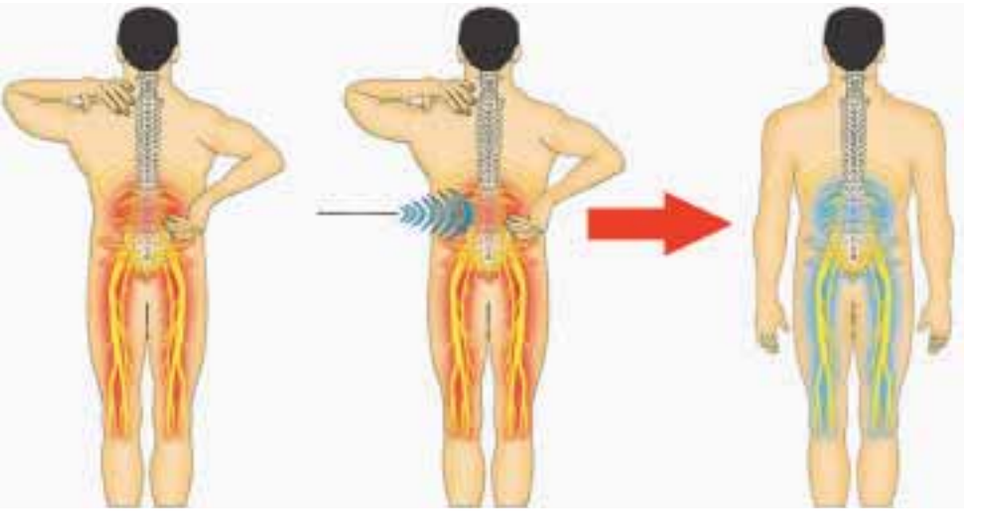

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ICE courthouse arrests in the city have skyrocketed over the past few years. GETTY IMAGES

ICE courthouse arrests in city up 1,700%: Report

Since 2016, the number of immigrant arrests have skyrocketed in New York City and across the state.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Since the Trump administration took office in early 2017, the number of ICE arrests in New York City courthouses has skyrocketed, according to a report from the Immigrant Defense Project.

The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP), a nonprofit that promotes justice for immigrants, documented 202 total reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests and sightings in state courthouses throughout 2018.

That's a 1,700 percent increase compared to 2016, before President Donald Trump took office, per the report.

Of those 202 reports, 187 were about ICE arrests, in which IDP could confirm that the federal agency took someone into custody during a courthouse operation.

Of those arrests, 127 were in New York City alone. The largest number of ICE arrests were in Brooklyn, which saw 35 arrests in 2018, and Queens, which had 33 arrests.

Those figures show a stark jump from previous years. In 2017, IDP documented 159 total ICE arrests in state courts and in 2016, just 11 arrests, according to the report.

"This report shows that ICE is expanding surveillance and arrests in courthouses across the state, creating a crisis for immigrants who need access to the courts. We cannot allow ICE to turn New York's courts into traps for immigrants," said Alisa Wellek, IDP executive director, in a statement.

In some cases, state court officers even assisted with the ICE arrests, per the report.

> **"We cannot allow ICE to turn New York's courts into traps for immigrants."**
> **Alisa Wellek, IDP executive director**

A report of an ICE sighting, according to IDP, means that witnesses saw ICE agents or vehicles in or near a courthouse, but arrests could not be verified.

Sightings are still worrisome, IDP says, because it could mean that ICE was looking for someone, made an arrest that wasn't reported, or could have been conducting surveillance on someone the agency is targeting.

The practice of ICE courthouse arrests has been criticized by local district attorneys, who last year called on ICE to stop arresting immigrants at local courthouses, and by Mayor Bill de Blasio, along with immigrant advocacy groups across the city.

IDP is calling on the state legislature to pass the Protect Our Courts Act, which would restrict civil immigration arrests of those attending court. The act was introduced this month by Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and Sen. Brad Hoylman.

The IDP report on ICE arrests in New York courthouses came out the same day that noted New York City immigrant rights activist Ravi Ragbir had his ICE check-in. Last January, Ragbir was detained after his routine check-in with ICE, prompting protests and words of support from city residents and elected officials.

Ragbir, executive director of the New Sanctuary Coalition, currently has a stay of deportation. He is scheduled to report to ICE again in six months.

"I stand with Ravi Ragbir and all immigrants against deportation," Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez said in a statement Monday. "New York City is a sanctuary city and we will defend residents regardless of where they come from or their immigration status."

Rodriguez added that he's "appalled" by a Documented NY article on Monday that revealed New York State court officers are informing ICE when immigrants arrive to the courthouse so that they can then be arrested.

"We must stop this practice and end these unlawful deportations in New York," he added.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

L train service disruptions set for this week — and weekend

Are you ready for reduced L train service this week?

Though the full L train shutdown is no longer in the works, straphangers will still see partial service shutdowns overnight on the L line as part of continued track replacement work that was first announced back in October.

Weeknight service changes this week, which began Monday and will continue to Friday, will impact the L line from 10:45 p.m. to 5 a.m., according to the MTA.

During that time, no L trains will run on the tracks between Broadway Junction in Brooklyn and Eighth Avenue in Manhattan. Straphangers will instead have to take the M14 and free shuttle buses along that route.

L train service will also be suspended between those same stations for the entire upcoming weekend, beginning 10:45 p.m. Friday. L trains are expected to resume service 5 a.m. Monday.

"We're keeping our commitment to perform the track, switch and signal replacement work that was always part of the L Project, started months ago, and will improve reliability on the line both while the tunnel is being rehabilitated as well as far into the future after the project is done," MTA spokesman Shams Tarek said in a statement.

"We're keeping our commitment to perform the track, switch and signal replacement work that was always part of the L Project, started months ago, and will improve reliability on the line."
MTA spokesman Shams Tarek

During the overnight and weekend L train work, the MTA will increase M14 bus service in Manhattan and run shuttle buses.

For the weeknight work, buses will run on two routes:
– Between Broadway Junction and Lorimer Street, making all L train stops and connecting riders with the J train at Marcy Ave.
– A loop bus that serves Marcy Ave. and Hewes Street to connect riders to the J, Broadway for the G train, and Lorimer Street and Bedford Ave.

For the weekend L train service disruptions, the MTA will deploy buses on three routes making L station stops in Brooklyn.
– One route will run between Broadway Junction and Myrtle-Wyckoff avenues for M train connections.
– Another will run between Myrtle-Wyckoff and Lorimer Street (Metropolitan Ave.) connecting to the M and G lines.
– The third will be the aforementioned loop bus connecting the L train's Lorimer and Bedford stops with Marcy Ave., Hewes Street and Broadway.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

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GETTY IMAGES

Shutdown costs pegged at $3B as government reopens

Overall, the economy lost $11 billion during the period.

The U.S. economy was expected to lose $3 billion from the partial federal government shutdown over President Donald Trump's demand for border wall funding, congressional researchers said on Monday, as 800,000 federal employees returned to work after a 35-day unpaid furlough.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said the cost of the shutdown will make the U.S. economy 0.02 percent smaller than expected in 2019. More significant effects will be felt by individual businesses and workers, particularly those who went without pay.

Overall, the U.S. economy lost about $11 billion during the five-week period, CBO said. However, CBO expects $8 billion to be recovered as the government reopens and employees receive back pay.

The longest shutdown in U.S. history ended on Friday, when Trump and Congress agreed to temporary government funding — without money for his wall — as the effects of the shutdown intensified across the country.

Republican Trump had demanded that legislation to fund the government contain $5.7 billion for his long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He says it is necessary to stop illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug smuggling, while Democrats call it costly, inefficient and immoral.

A committee of lawmakers from both major parties were to hold their first open meeting on Wednesday as they try to negotiate a compromise on border security before the Feb. 15 deadline.

The CBO estimated the shutdown reduced gross domestic product in the last quarter of 2018 by $3 billion.

It said that in the first quarter of 2019, the level of real GDP is estimated to be $8 billion lower than it would have been, citing "an effect reflecting both the five-week partial shutdown and the resumption in economic activity once funding resumed."

Trump said he would be willing to shut down the government again if lawmakers do not reach a deal he finds acceptable on border security. On Sunday, he expressed skepticism such a deal could be made, putting the odds at 50-50.

Trump has also said he might declare a national emergency to get money for the border wall. Democrats would likely challenge that in court.

The CBO report serves as a stark warning to Trump against another shutdown, Democratic lawmakers said.

"Families across the nation are still trying to recover from a month of missing paychecks and overdue bills, but the president is already threatening a second shutdown if he doesn't get his way," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

Most employees should be paid by Thursday for back pay, which one study estimated at $6 billion for all those furloughed. Contractors and businesses that relied on federal workers' business, however, face huge losses, although some lawmakers are pushing legislation to pay contractors back as well. REUTERS

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Doctors Urge Knee Pain Sufferers

"Don't Get ANY Surgery Until You SeeThis…"

After Years Of Intense Study, NYC Medical Clinic Finally Reveals It's Best "Treatment Formula" For Helping Knee Arthritis Sufferers... Especially When So Many Other Treatments Have Failed

NEW YORK CITY - If you are even remotely interested in discovering how the latest scientific discoveries can possibly help your knee pain... then this is going is be the most exciting information you ever read.

Here is why: Knee pain can not only be brutal... it's complex. In other words, it's not a simple, easy fix.

But I'm sure you already know that. Or you wouldn't be reading this.

That's the bad news.

Now for some good news...

Over the years, *NYC Pain MD* has treated countless knee pain sufferers. And in that time have been able to constantly improve.

And we have come up with a treatment formula that we have found works best and helps the most patients.

This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

It's amazing when patients who were once in excruciating pain... start feeling better. And start walking again. And playing golf. Or tennis. And finally getting their lives back.

Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

So many had given up hope.

Sound familiar? If it does... check this out...

The Treatment Formula

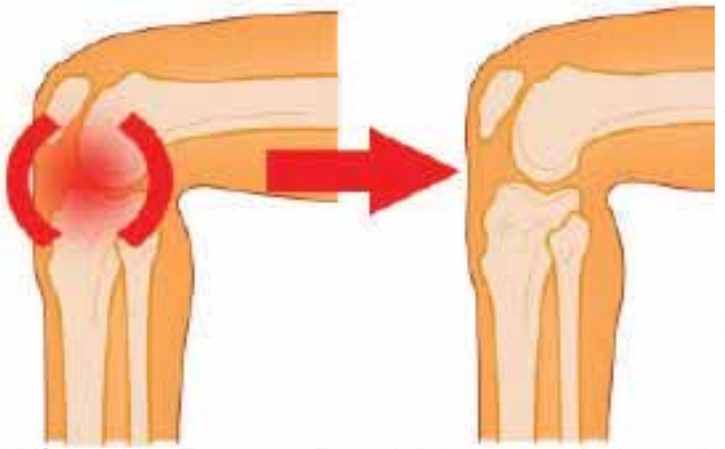
While I can't give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: PATIENT SELECTION.

This means, *NYC Pain MD* has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that *NYC Pain MD* offers.

If you do not, *NYC Pain MD* will tell you what they think your best options are and help you find the right doctor for you.



NYC Pain MD "**Treatment Formula**" A protocol of advanced medical treatments that has already helped thousands.

If you qualify, NYC Pain MD offers some of the most advanced medical treatments available today all using the most advanced imaging technology including:

- Viscosupplementation (gel injections)
- Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)
- Stem Cell Therapy (Lipogems)
- Genicular Knee Block
- And more.

Once again, there is not enough space to go into detail about all these procedures... but here are some things you MUST KNOW....

Viscosupplementation is where a doctor introduces a gel-like medicine directly into the joint space. This helps to lubricate the joints often relieving some, most or even all of your pain. Results can last for 6 months to several years.

Many have had these treatments *without* good results. However, *NYC Pain MD* feels this is because doctors often do these "gel injections" without advanced imaging to guide them. Research shows they will often miss the joint. If the joint is missed... it is impossible for the treatment to work.

NYC Pain MD has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

The second thing you must know is... our treatment plans are custom made for every patent. And we have all these treatments offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At *NYC Pain MD* your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

The ability to select the right patients and then have the potential to give them any or all of these treatments... with all the necessary medical technology... under one roof... has allowed *NYC Pain MD* to get better results than they thought possible.

Here's What You Should Do Next

If you suffer with knee pain... and any of this made sense to you... *NYC Pain MD* would like to offer you a No-cost screening. That screening is the first step in our "Treatment Formula."

You will get to see a doctor and ask any questions you have. Your doctor will take the first steps to see if you qualify for treatments and give you recommendations.

The best thing is... you will finally get direction. You will know what's going on and what is your best course of action… step-by-step. The treatments will be explained in detail and you will breathe a big sigh of relief finally knowing what's going on and what can or cannot be done.

There is so much we want to say to help you... but I'm out of space. Give us a call at ***877-296-6310*** and take the first step. That step is free without obligation.

NYC PAIN MD

www.PainMDNY.com

877-296-6310

5 Credit card trends to watch in 2019

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

Credit card users enjoyed a bounty of rewards in 2018: Thanks to a relatively healthy economy and competition for consumers, issuers launched new products with attractive incentives.

Some credit card experts say 2019 might usher in a more austere period for credit card rewards, especially if interest rates continue to rise and the economy struggles.

For now, consumers can continue to enjoy rich credit card rewards, as long as they take care to avoid high-interest debt.

Here are five credit card trends to look for in 2019:

1. More dining and entertainment rewards
In 2018, Wells Fargo launched the Wells Fargo Propel American Express® Card, which offers triple points on things like dining out, ordering in, travel, transit and streaming services. Other non-bonus-category spending earns one point per dollar. Terms apply.

Also last year, the Capital One® Savor® Cash Rewards Credit Card began offering additional rewards in the dining and entertainment categories. Plus, the issuer launched the no-annual-fee Capital One® SavorOne Cash Rewards Credit Card, which also offers bonus rewards on dining and entertainment.

ISTOCK

2. More co-branded retail cards
If your favorite store still doesn't have its own co-branded credit card, there's a good chance it will before 2019 is over.

Over the past 12 months, we saw even more retailers offering co-branded credit cards, including Ikea and Starbucks. Such cards can be lucrative for the merchant and can also encourage greater shopper loyalty. What's more, store cards have greatly improved their reward offerings recently, making them more useful for everyday spending.

3. More credit card spending
As more merchants eliminate cash as a payment option, consumers will continue to increase their credit card usage as a proportion of their overall spending. Some businesses, especially restaurants that cater to lunch crowds, say going cashless can save them time and money. They don't need to count cash at the end of the day, and transactions at the register often move more quickly.

Given the cashless trend, 2019 will likely see more merchants joining the likes of salad chain Sweetgreen and Dos Toros, a taqueria, which have already opted to eschew cash in favor of plastic.

4. More contactless options
Paying with your credit card without swiping or inserting it might sound futuristic if you're not already a convert, but a growing number of consumers are using contactless cards, and even more will do so this year.

5. Higher interest rates
If you're carrying credit card debt, make a plan to pay it off as soon as possible in 2019. Interest rates are expected to continue to rise this year, meaning debt could become more expensive to carry as the year goes on.

If credit card debt is a concern, focus less on the flashy rewards your cards may offer and more on ways to pay down your balances.

Offers for 0% introductory APRs could get harder to find, which makes it a good idea to lock one in while you can. A credit card with a 0% introductory APR can help you pay off credit card debt without accruing additional interest, as long as you pay it off before that introductory period ends and make all minimum payments along the way.

This article was written by NerdWallet and was originally published by Forbes.
KIMBERLY PALMER

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Grumble Editor

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READER WRITE-INS:

TRANSPORTATION GRUMBLE!

I know there's a lot more pressing things in the world to worry about, but it will become a critical thing for me if I really hurt myself. I'm talking about the startup of the trains and buses after they stop. I get trains, particularly older ones that may be harder to get into gear, but there's no reason for the bus driver to gun it after he pulls away from the stop. You're not even at or in your seat yet and you're knocked off your footing, with no time to grab a handle, bar or pole. You have to have a super sense of coordination not to fall into someone else, especially if wearing a backpack. I need balance like I'm surfing, particularly on the very long buses that have that turning wheel in the middle. I feel like I'm on a carnival ride. And so help your fellow commuters if you have a drink in your hand. Treat our equilibrium kindly and ease into going forward!

— **Mark**, *Metro New York reader*

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THE GOVERNMENT IS BACK IN BUSINESS... FOR NOW

While many of us still have grievances about how things are going in Washington, one thing that we can all agree on is that the government being (temporarily) reopened is a really good thing. 800,000 federal employees are heading back to work this week after missing two paychecks, and that is reason enough to rejoice. Let's just hope it doesn't happen again...

Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Concentrate on what you can do and aim to make improvements not only for you, but for causes you care about. Offering your services will lead to greater opportunities.

Taurus Don't lose sight of your goal, regardless of what others do or say. You will feel better if you are physically productive. Trying to reason with someone will end in a dispute.

Gemini Personal and professional changes can be made if you take action and make things happen. Look for innovative ideas, and collaborate with people.

Cancer Don't be fooled by someone trying to dump his or her responsibilities in your lap. A partnership will be challenged if you aren't specific regarding what you will and will not do.

Leo Discuss your ideas and plans with interesting people. A relationship will develop with someone who has similar plans and life goals.

Virgo Live up to your promises at home or you will be faced with criticism and complaints. Being productive will encourage others to pitch in and help. Avoid indulgent situations.

Libra Focus on implementing doable changes instead of wasting time on something that will never happen. Physical fitness and proper diet will improve your health and attitude.

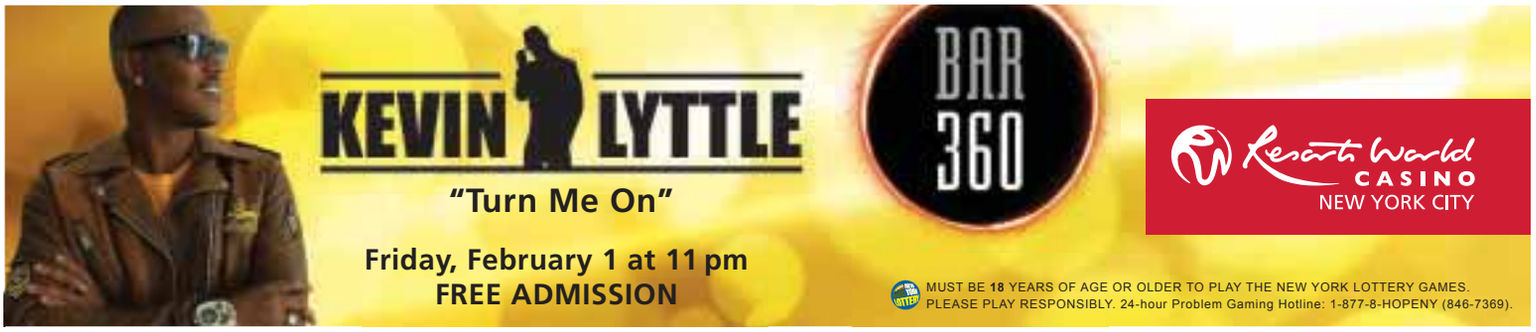
Scorpio Don't let someone mess with you. Listen to what's being said and question anything that doesn't sound right. Your intuition will not let you down.

Sagittarius Consider the goals you have yet to complete, and do something that will get you moving in a direction conducive to fulfilling your dreams, hopes and wishes.

Capricorn Problems with institutions or government agencies will crop up if you neglect to file paperwork on time. Walk away from situations that appear to be unstable.

Aquarius If you call in favors and get together with a colleague you collaborated with in the past, you'll open up options that will lead to solid prospects. Romance is on the rise.

Pisces Helping others is admirable, but don't take on or promise more than you can deliver. It's best to say less and do more than to fall short. Protect your reputation. EUGENIA LAST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LIFESTYLE

Slay all day

Death Becomes Us will be a mix of serious events and fun pop-ups. KARLIN VILLONDO PHOTOGRAPHY

New York's first-ever true-crime festival is coming with Death Becomes Us, five days of talks, screenings and parties.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

Put on your deerstalker hats, grab your flashlights and remind your loved ones to lock the doors — New York is finally getting its first-ever true-crime festival, Death Becomes Us.

Following a successful first edition in Washington, D.C., last fall, Death Becomes Us arrives for a massive five-day true-crime festival from March 20-24, organized by online pop culture magazine and events company Brightest Young Things.

"It's becoming a lot easier to walk up to a stranger in a bar and drop that weird love of Jeffrey Dahmer, but this is definitely the place where you can be like, 'Yeah, I have a poster of Jeffrey Dahmer hanging in my house,'" says festival organizer Jenn Tisdale. (Yes, she's the one with the poster.)

If that also describes you, the "true crime pop culture festival" Death Becomes Us is where you'll want to be. Among the announced guests — more are coming over the next week — are Damien Echols, who spent nearly two decades on death row as one of the wrongfully convicted West Memphis Three, and Golden State Killer investigator Paul Holes on the new cold case he's taken on. And because New York has its own unique crime history, the festival will feature events on the Son of Sam, who terrorized the city in the summer of 1976, and the most notorious mafia crimes.

But Death Becomes Us is about more than murder — it's about bringing fans of the genre together in what Tisdale calls (with a wink) a "safe space." Expect "weird and fun things" like the ladies of Wine & Crime podcast holding a Mystery Science Theater-style screening of their favorite "Forensic Files" episodes and pop-ups like a blood spatter-patterned manicure bar.

Events will take place at various venues around the city including Gramercy Theatre, Irving Plaza, Nitehawk Cinema and the Strand. All-access passes are $125 and available now, with individual show tickets going on sale starting this week.

As for what attracts people to true crime? Tisdale describes herself as "a very morbid person" who grew up loving horror movies and books, but also admits being drawn in by the fame that makes serial killers irresistible — even after they've been sent to prison.

"Did you know that the Menendez brothers have both been married while in prison, at least twice?" she says. "And I don't want to tell you the last time I went on a date!"

Tickets to Death Becomes Us are available at deathbecomesus.com.

The hosts of Wine & Crime will be at Death Becomes Us. PROVIDED

Swap your skates for bumper cars

Try out an ice bumper car at Bryant Park through Sunday. PROVIDED

If you're not coordinated enough for ice skating, there's a new way to enjoy the rink at Bryant Park: ice bumper cars.

For the first time, the Bank of America Winter Village has brought a dozen zoomy ice bumper cars to its Olympic-sized rink. Driven by joysticks, you don't even need to be of age to drive an ice bumper car, just over 7 years old, at least 42 inches tall and under 300 lbs.

While skating at the rink remains free (if you BYO skates, otherwise it's $20 to rent them), the bumper cars are $15 for 10 minutes of driving — which should be just enough to rattle your teeth. The bumper cars are available Mon-Wed from noon-5 p.m. Thurs-Sun from 2-8 p.m. through Feb. 3, and can be reserved online at wintervillage.org at least 24 hours in advance.

The bumper cars are part of the park's week-long FrostFest, going on now through Sunday, Feb. 3, with special events including the annual prom on skates known as Ice Ball (Jan. 30), a Skating Showcase (Feb. 1) headlined by Johnny Weir, and a Kilt Skate (Feb. 2) hosted by the American-Scottish Foundation.

While many of the outdoor food vendors have packed up for the season, you can relax rinkside at The Lodge, Urbanspace's lux indoor food hall with a champagne bar and 11 vendors, including Mah-Ze-Dahr bakery and the Pierogi Boys.

Or have a wintry picnic in the park inside several new giant igloos, which can be rented for $250 including drinks and snacks for four. EVA KIS

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What surprises are in store for this year's big game? GETTY IMAGES

What Super Bowl surprises will drop on Sunday?

Studios and streamers are known to drop surprise ads during the big game.

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

During last year's Super Bowl, Netflix dropped a surprise teaser for the "The Cloverfield Paradox." The prequel to the "Cloverfield" films began streaming as soon as the game clock came to a stop. While the streamer's nonexistent advertising campaign ultimately paid off, the movie still received poor reviews from critics and audiences alike. So this begs the question: Will this year's commercials hold any similar surprises?

That all depends on whether Netflix and other industry bigwigs still think previewing new titles is worth the millions of dollars these commercials cost. Sure, "The Cloverfield Paradox" may have been a ratings blunder, but Nielsen independently claimed that 785,000 viewers tuned in to see what the movie was all about following Super Bowl LII. The three-day haul for the title was around 2.8 million.

Netflix's big gamble possibly got nearly a million people to check out a new title that hadn't been advertised before it began streaming. They most likely considered this a win, as did streaming competitors like Hulu and traditional broadcast and cable outlets, as well as movie studios

Rumors about the Netflix "Cloverfield" movie had been running rampant by the time Super Bowl LII came around. But what about this weekend's game? Will any of the 2019 commercials reveal the first teasers, trailers or announcements for another surprise movie or show from Netflix or its streaming competitors? So far, Ad Age is reporting that none of the big streamers have purchased any advertising time during Sunday's game.

However, Amazon is teasing something called the "Beta Testing Program" that will undoubtedly involve the use of celebrity cameos. Whether they'll be using these commercials to tease any Amazon Prime titles remains to be seen, but the more curious case is that of Disney's undisclosed number of ad buys for Sunday. This could mean just about anything, from another "Avengers: Endgame" teaser to a first look at "Star Wars: Episode IX."

Or, the Walt Disney Company might be using some of its commercials to begin pushing its Disney+ streaming service. The Netflix competitor is already boasting confirmed and rumored original programming from Lucasfilm and Marvel Studios, so who knows?

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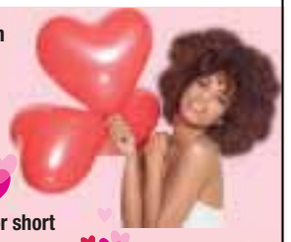

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Taylor Goldsmith on 10 years with Dawes, how Mandy Moore marriage changed his views on songwriting

We sat down to speak with the songwriter ahead of the band's upcoming tour.

PAT KING
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GETTY IMAGES

Over the past 10 years, the band Dawes have worked tirelessly to carve a unique space for themselves, mixing a unique blend of classic Laurel Canyon, '70s-style Americana. At the start of 2019, the band will be hitting the road for a few special dates where they will run through highlights from throughout their career. We sat down with lead songwriter Taylor Goldsmith to talk about their new album, 2018's "Passwords", and his evolution as a songwriter.

Along with releasing your new album, you also got married in 2018 to Mandy Moore. While it seems like it must have been a happy year, your lyrical content on "Passwords" takes on some more challenging subjects.

On one hand, I feel a responsibility as an aging songwriter — not that I'm old, but the fact that I'm not in my twenties anymore. I feel a bit of a responsibility not to drag you through that proverbial mind of "she left me and now I'm sad" and "I want her but she doesn't want me." I feel like when you find these songwriters who are in their 40s or 50s or whatever, and they're still kind of exploring that emotion, it feels a little bit uncomfortable for me as a listener. Sometimes, I feel like that seems very appropriate when you're 23.

I don't want to just write about "here's me and here's my adventures in romance." I'm pretty sure that's part of my songwriting, and it is in "Passwords" to a certain degree, but I don't want it to be the only thing because I think that that would get tired. For you and for me.

Dawes has now been a band for 10 years. Are you at a point where you are able to enjoy your successes as they happen?

It's definitely two things at once. The first time we got to play the Ryman a couple years ago, there's this feeling of, "Oh my god. We're going to sell out the Ryman tonight and it's going to be incredible. It's going to be one of the best nights of our lives." Coupled with this feeling of, "How do we come back and do two nights, or how do we come back and do three nights, or how do we sell more records?" I think, spiritually — whatever that word means — I feel like I used to resent that second attitude. Like, OK, let's just be grateful and present and just shut your ambition off for a second. But, I realized I wouldn't be getting to appreciate those moments at all if it weren't for that ambition. So I tried to allow for both.

When we're getting to play these rooms and we're beginning to get recognized and we've been a band for 10 years, I can feel it right now and I try to really stop and say to myself, "This is what you want, you're living that dream, you're as lucky as you wanted to be and really living in that experience and feeling." But, at the same time, that other voice is saying, "What's next? What do you do from here? How do you take it to the next level?" And now, I allow for both voices to coexist.

You'll have two chances to catch Dawes in the New York area over the next week: Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Beacon Theatre, and Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Capital Theater in Portchester.

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Knicks backcourt facing revamp

Trey Burke was made available over the weekend. What could the plan be moving forward?

JOE PANTORNO
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As the New York Knicks continue to get ready to sell at the NBA's Feb. 7 trade deadline, more and more names continue to populate trade talks.

Over the weekend, Marc Berman of the New York Post reported that the Knicks are putting backup point guard Trey Burke on the trade block as they look for a second-round draft pick in return. The return for Burke can't be much more than that considering he will be an unrestricted free agent by season's end.

A move could alleviate some of the pressure created by a logjam in the Knicks backcourt as first-year head coach David Fizdale has had to divvy up time between Burke, Emmanuel Mudiay and Frank Ntilikina. All three are younger point guards who are in the midst of pivotal developments.

Burke, along with Mudiay, has experienced a resurgence while with the Knicks. After being written off by the Utah Jazz and Washington Wizards, the 26-year-old has proven that he is more than capable of creating a niche as a backup point guard, if not a spot starter. In 67 games with New York since last season, Burke is averaging 12.3 points and 3.9 assists per game in just 21.1 minutes of playing time.

Upon his initial report, Berman highlighted the Brooklyn Nets, Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Lakers as three possible candidates for the Knicks to consider. All three have needs in the backcourt that Burke could immediately address. Los Angeles' Lonzo Ball and Brooklyn's Spencer Dinwiddie are sidelined due to injury and the Warriors could use some more depth at the backup point guard role to provide another option besides Quinn Cook.

The Knicks have made Trey Burke available on the trade market. GETTY IMAGES

There have been some reports that suggest the Knicks could be looking for a bit more than just a second-round pick, however.

Brandon "Scoop B" Robinson added that the Knicks have mentioned Burke's name in negotiations for a trade that would involve Dallas Mavericks second-year point guard Dennis Smith Jr. However, there has been no further confirmation on such reports.

The Knicks and Mavericks have reportedly been in talks about a possible Smith deal throughout the final weeks of January, according to the Athletic's Shams Charania, along with the Lakers and Orlando Magic.

Smith has fallen out of favor with the Mavericks after the emergence of star rookie Luka Doncic, who has taken over the starting point guard role while the NC State product has made the move to the 2. He's seen a regression in his numbers in the process as he's averaging 12.9 points and four assists per game this season.

With Burke seemingly on his way out, Ntilikina now also the subject of trade rumors, and Mudiay a free agent at the end of this season, Smith could be seen by the Knicks as a fixture in the backcourt for years to come. He's under team control through the 2021-22 season and was a draft target of the Knicks two years ago. However, they opted to draft Ntilikina with the No. 8 pick while the Mavericks took Smith at No. 9.

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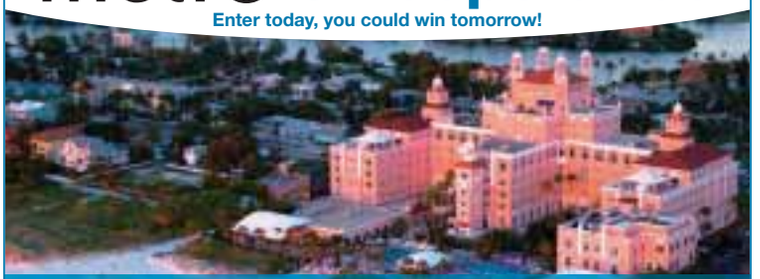

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Could Knicks, Nets get in on AD?

The Pelicans star requested a trade on Monday morning.

JOE PANTORNO
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With two weeks remaining until the NBA's Feb. 7 trade deadline, Anthony Davis and his representation just dropped a bomb on the basketball world Monday morning.

ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski reported that Davis and his agent have notified the New Orleans Pelicans that he will not be signing a five-year, $240 million supermax extension with the team while putting in a request for a trade.

Davis' departure from the Pelicans has been expected, especially over the past year as trade rumors continued to swirl around the 25-year-old center. Now, New Orleans management is faced with the possibility of having to scramble to ship Davis out of town with a limited window of opportunity, at least for this year.

The one positive for the Pelicans is that Davis' value on the trade market won't go down regardless of if they can trade him before Feb. 7. He can become a free agent in the summer of 2020, so it's not like they will lose him without getting anything in return if he's still in New Orleans on Feb. 8.

And they'll stand to get a king's ransom for a player that is not even in the prime of his career yet and is averaging 29.3 points and 13.3 rebounds per game this season. Davis has plenty of cards to hold as well, seeing as he can notify interested parties whether or not he will sign a long-term extension with them. If he wants no part of a team looking to trade for him, all he'll have to do is tell them he'll walk in free agency come 2020 and that will likely deter any sort of blockbuster deal.

All-Star center Anthony Davis is on the trade block. GETTY IMAGES

Nevertheless, a player of such talent obviously is going to pique the interest of almost every team in the NBA, but the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers have long been linked to Davis, when the prospect of a trade first emerged.

Davis' decision to request a trade now, though, is clearly an advantage for the Lakers, who now have a two-week head start in front of the Celtics to negotiate.

Despite being able to offer what is believed to be the best possible return to the Pelicans for Davis, the Celtics cannot trade for the star until July 1 unless Kyrie Irving is a part of the deal.

Both Irving and Davis signed contract extensions under the "Rose Rule," which allows players coming off a rookie-scale contract to earn 30 percent of the salary cap instead of 25 percent. NBA rules state that a single team cannot trade for more than one player who signed a contract under such circumstances. Therefore, they'll have to wait until Irving either becomes a free agent or signs a contract extension in order to get both stars on the roster.

That leaves the Lakers with a clear path to try and pull off a franchise-altering trade as soon as possible. Pairing Davis with LeBron James, who shares an agent in Rich Paul, would only strengthen Los Angeles' chances as legitimate contenders in the Western Conference, and the Lakers would have no problem securing Davis for the long haul. James is the only Laker who is making more than $10 million through the 2018-19 season.

They also have plenty of young assets to offer New Orleans, whether it be Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram or Kyle Kuzma.

But Wojnarowski added on ESPN's "Get Up" Monday morning that both New York teams in the Knicks and Brooklyn Nets could also get in on the Davis sweepstakes. Both teams have max salary slots next year and could immediately shore up their frontcourts with a bona fide star for the next decade as they look to build up to Eastern Conference powers in the near future.

The Knicks are expected to be aggressive in a pursuit of Davis, per Wojnarowski on an appearance with Golic and Wingo on ESPN Radio. However, their best chance to get him would be by giving up what could become the No. 1 pick in this year's NBA draft, Duke star Zion Williamson.

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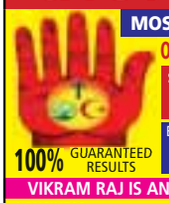

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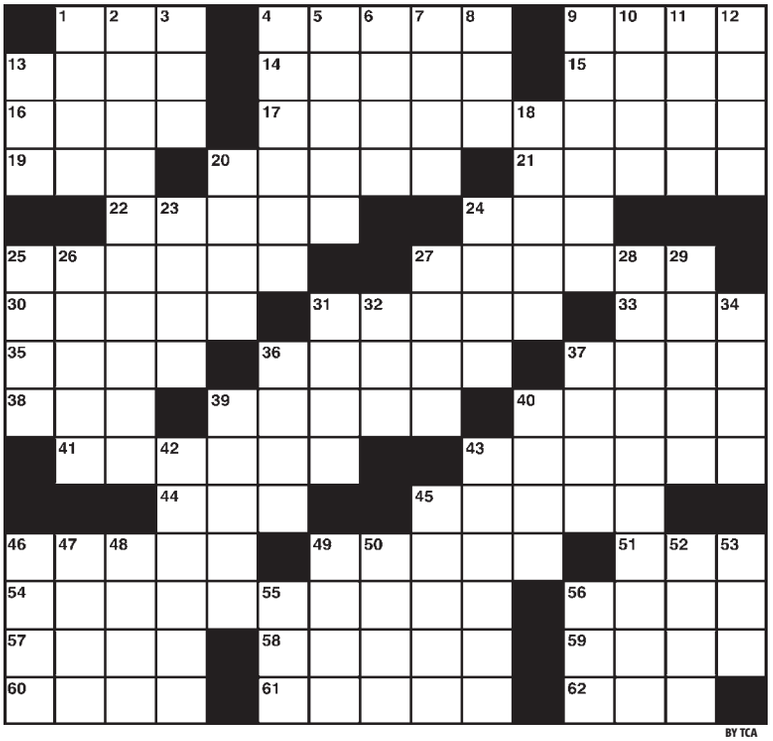
24 Female relation
25 Curtain holders
26 Lanai greeting
27 Uses a straw
28 Fair; impartial
29 Slight coloring
31 Jewels
32 "I __ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
34 Look through a keyhole
36 Ballerina's skirt
37 Strong wind
39 Stringed instrument
40 Artificial fishing bait
42 Skimpy; meager
43 Reign
45 Steve or Tim
46 Encourage
47 Enlarge a hole
48 Soothing ointment
49 Wicked weather
50 Qualified
52 Clumsy fellows
53 Cobb & Burrell
55 Eggy drink
56 Help with the dishes



BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

L	H	Q	G	I	G	M	P	E	B
J	B	D	H	E	Q	O	A	L	N
X	U	K	O	D	U	S	T	G	E
S	S	O	R	C	I	P	T	G	W
W	E	I	E	R	Z	K	E	O	P
C	M	M	T	O	I	G	R	B	U
I	A	E	W	P	N	D	N	O	Z
G	T	R	I	V	I	A	D	T	Z
O	H	C	R	A	E	S	F	L	L
L	A	T	R	O	P	I	F	Y	E

Boggle
Game
Logic
Math
Pattern
Picross
Portal
Puzzle
Quiz
Riddle
Search
Sudoku
Tetris
Trivia
Word

metro.us/wander

Category: Film

U	S	L	E	
J	T	E	A	G
	I	C	E	U

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

	3	8		9	7			1
7	9		5				6	4
	5	4	1	8			7	
1				7	5	2	4	
		3				7		
	6	7	3	2				8
	7			1	4	6	9	
9	4				3		8	2
8			2	6		4	3	

Yesterday's Answers

F	A	I	R			S	C	A	R		A	C	T	S
L	U	N	A	R		W	A	G	E		B	L	I	P
A	T	T	H	E		A	L	O	N	G	S	I	D	E
P	O	I		P	I	N			E	L	O	P	E	D
		M	O	A	N	S			W	A	R			
T	R	I	V	I	A			T	I	D	B	I	T	
R	I	D	E	R		P	R	U	N	E		M	O	O
A	S	A	N		B	E	I	N	G		S	P	A	N
P	E	T		S	U	E	D	E		N	O	O	S	E
	R	E	C	T	O	R			C	O	A	S	T	S
			L	A	Y			L	A	I	R	S		
I	M	P	A	L	A			A	D	S		I	D	O
T	O	R	M	E	N	T	E	D		E	B	B	E	D
C	L	O	P		C	O	A	L		S	A	L	A	D
H	E	W	S		Y	O	R	E			R	E	D	S

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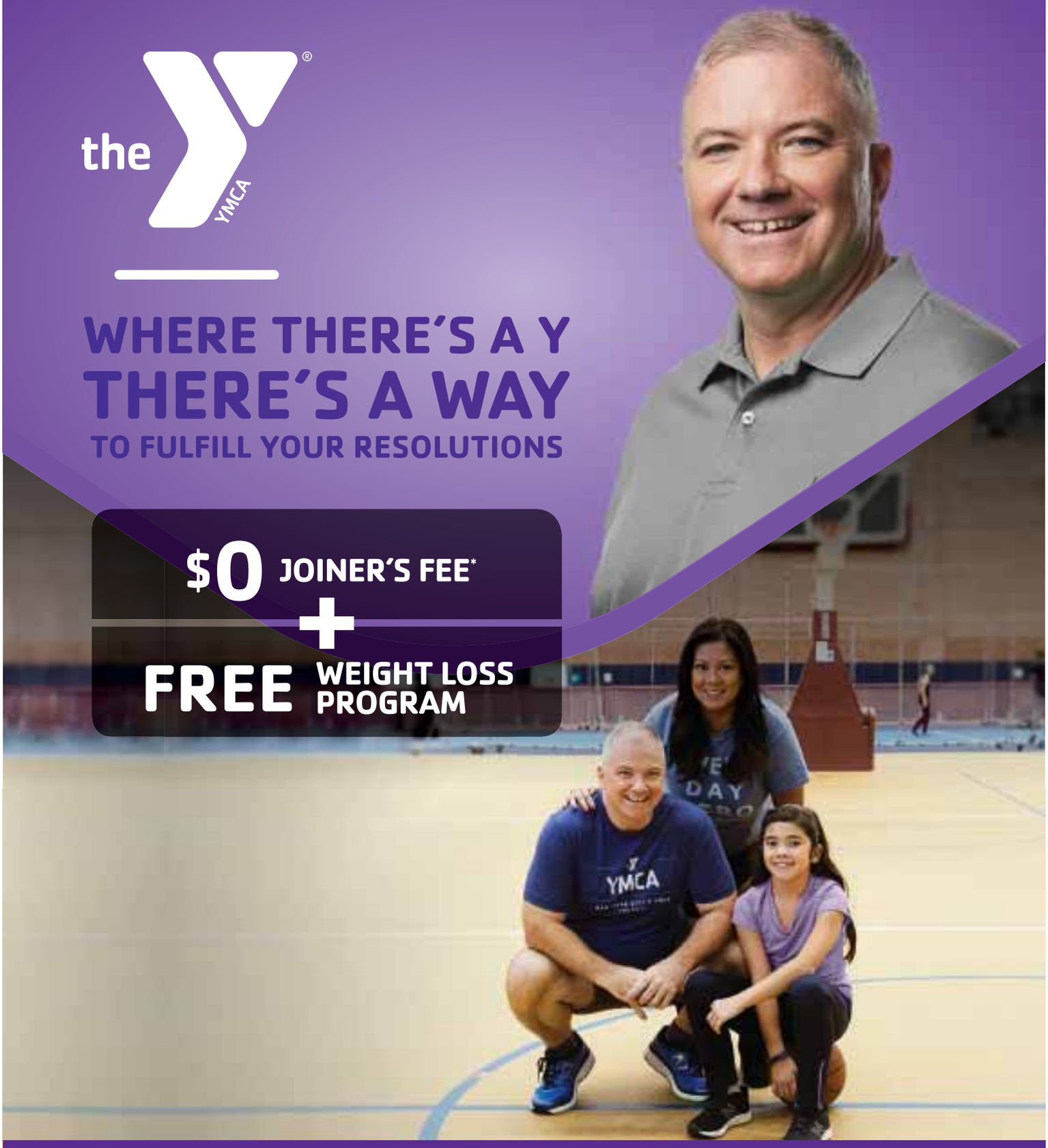

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